UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2000/60/Add.1
24 March 2000

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH/FRENCH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 11 (a)

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE QUESTIONS OF TORTURE AND DETENTION

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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GE.00-12075 (E)

Introduction

1. This addendum updates the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2000/60).

I. FINANCIAL STATUS

2. On the eve of the nineteenth session of the Board of Trustees of the Fund (15-26 May 2000), a total of US$ 1,724,802 has been received to provide humanitarian assistance to victims of torture and to members of their families. Table 1, drawn up on 15 March 2000 on the basis of the information available to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, updates table 1 of the main report. Most of these contributions have been made by donors for 1999. Denmark, the Holy See, Liechtenstein, Monaco and Poland have paid their contribution for 2000, as recommended by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1999/32 of 26 April 1999, in which the Commission requested Governments to pay their contributions for the current year before the Board's annual meeting (15-26 May 2000).

Table 1. Paid contributions that will be taken into consideration at the nineteenth session of the Board of Trustees

State	Amount (US$)	Recorded	Intended for	Contribution No
Argentina	3 000	24.08.99	1999	10
Argentina	7 052	30.08.99	1999	11
Austria	20 000	22.10.99	1999	16
Belgium	73 791	11.02.00	1999	10
Cyprus	500	31.12.99	1999	11
Denmark	278 571	09.07.99	1999	17
Denmark	259 928	13.03.00	2000	18
Germany	72 505	19.11.99	1999	17
Germany	47 336	19.11.99	1999	18
Holy See	1 000	31.12.99	2000	2
Ireland	59 369	08.06.99	1999	15
Japan	64 000	15.02.00	1999	14
Liechtenstein	6 098	10.02.00	2000	12
Luxembourg	12 949	21.05.99	1999	16
Monaco	10 000	18.02.00	2000	7
Netherlands	455 975	13.12.99	1999	18
New Zealand	15 687	02.12.99	1999	13
Poland	10 000	06.10.99	2000	1
Portugal	15 000	22.06.99	1999	4
Saudi Arabia	20 000	26.11.99	1999	2
Spain	44 317	19.11.99	1999	14
Sweden	245 843	28.10.99	1999	13
Tunisia	1 881	31.12.99	1998	8
TOTAL	1 724 802			

3 It should be noted that Poland contributed to the Fund for the first time this year, to the amount of US$ 10,000, and that the Holy See and Saudi Arabia have become regular donors to the Fund, making their second annual contributions

4 The total amount pledged is US$ 5,699,920 (see table 2 below), as compared with US$ 825,262 on 29 November 1999 (see table 2 in the main report) Pledges need to be paid by 30 April 2000, if they are to be recorded and allocated at the nineteenth session of the Board of Trustees

Table 2 Pledges

State	Amount (US$)	Intended for	Announced on	Contribution No
Algeria	5 000	2000	02-03 11 99[a]	9
Brazil	10 000	1995	20 12 94	7
Brazil	10 000	1996	02 11 95	8
Brazil	10 000	1998	04 11 97	9
Chile	10 000	2000	02-03 11 99[a]	8
France	75 758	2000	13 03 00	22
Norway	130 000	2000	06 03 00	15
Philippines	3 750[e]	1998	11 04 97	3
Philippines	2 595	1999	04 11 98	4
Philippines	2 800	2000	02 11 99	5
Tunisia	1 685	1999	02-03 11 99[a]	9
Turkey	5 000	2000	02-03 11 99[a]	2
United Kingdom	216 666[d]	1999	02 02 99	12
United Kingdom	216 666[c]	2000	17 02 00	13
United States	5 000 000[b]	2000	10 02 00	20
Total	5 699 920			

[a] Pledged at the Pledging Conference for Development Activities (2-3 November 1999, New York)

[b] The United States of America, the largest donor to the Fund, announced that its contribution for 2000 would be US$ 5 million, an increase of US$ 2 million over its 1999 contribution of US$ 3 million

[c] The Government had pledged US$ 10,000, of which US$ 6,250 has been paid

[d] The payment of £130,000 for 1999 was apparently paid into the wrong account (this is now being checked by the administration)

[e] A pledge of £130,000 for 2000

II. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

5. At the time of writing (15 March 2000), the total amount of grants requested by non-governmental organizations for 2000 is about US$ 10 million, as estimated in the latest report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/60, para. 19).

6. The number of projects submitted by organizations for funding by the Fund in 2000 is 164, as compared with 133 in 1999 - an increase of over 20 per cent. An increase of this order has never been recorded, nor have there ever been so many requests (over 40) for grants from new organizations. This has meant an increased workload for the secretariat of the Fund and for the Board, which has to check the information, see whether the criteria for admissibility are met and prepare the documentation for the nineteenth session. According to information provided by non-governmental organizations, this development can be explained partly by the fact that the European Commission is supposedly giving priority now to organizations with a very large annual budget, whereas most of the organizations providing assistance directly to torture victims in many countries have only a modest budget and depend partly on contributions in kind (voluntary work, the use of land and premises donated or made available by sponsors, donations from the community, etc.). In many cases, the subsidies these organizations actually need are relatively small (about US$ 30,000 or even less). A distinguishing feature of the Fund is precisely that it provides financial assistance to the type of programme that grows out of local initiatives in response to an accurate perception of the real needs of torture victims.

7. As forecast (E/CN.4/2000/60, para. 19), the amount needed by 30 April 2000 to satisfy all the requests for funding received from non-governmental organizations would be over US$ 12 million, since in addition to the US$ 10 million requested (see para. 5 above), 13 per cent would be required to cover the costs of programme support and a further 15 per cent to provide the compulsory reserve, in accordance with the United Nations rules on the administration of the Fund.

8. If we deduct from the US$ 12 million the total contributions available at the time of writing (US$ 1,724,802, see table 1) and the total of the pledges (US$ 5,699,920, which should be paid by 30 April 2000 at the latest), there would still be a shortfall of some US$ 4,575,278, to be made good either by new donors or by regular donors prepared to increase their contributions).

III. FUND-RAISING

9. In the light of the alarming financial situation of the Fund at the beginning of February 2000, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Jaap Walkate (Netherlands), launched an urgent appeal to regular donors through their permanent missions to the United Nations in Geneva. The aim of this appeal was to remind them that their contributions to the Fund should be paid before 30 April 2000 so that they could be recorded at the nineteenth session of the Board.

10. In accordance with past practice of the Bureau of the Commission on Human Rights, whereby the Chairman or a member of the Board of Trustees present in Geneva is invited to present the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission, a member of the Board should

address the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session (20 March to 28 April 2000), under agenda item 11 (a), to give interested Governments and non-governmental organizations the latest information on the needs of the Fund

11 At the end of its session, the Board of Trustees will hold a briefing for donors, as it does every year, on the allocation and use of contributions received The briefing is planned for Friday, 26 May 2000 at 3 p m in room XXV of the Palais des Nations

IV HOW TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

12 Governments, individuals and non-governmental organizations wishing to make a contribution to the Fund before May 2000 can do so as follows

(a) By bank transfer to the United Nations Geneva General Fund

- In United States dollars, c/o Chase Manhattan Bank, New York
  A/c 001-1-508629, UNOG General Fund
  G/L UN-0503456
  United States Banking Code 0221000021

- In Swiss francs, c/o UBS AG
  PO Box 2770, CH-1211 Geneva 2
  A/c 240-CO-590-160 0
  Swift address UBSWCHZH12A

(b) By cheque, made out to the "United Nations", to

- The Treasurer, United Nations Office at Geneva,
  Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, or

- The Treasury, United Nations, New York, NY 10017,
  United States of America

In all cases, please specify "Payee United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, a/c CH"

V 26 JUNE 2000 UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE

13 To follow up General Assembly resolution 52/149 of 12 December 1997, in which 26 June was proclaimed "United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture", the Board of Trustees encouraged organizations supported by the Fund to donate works of art created by torture victims as part of their therapy In commemoration of the International Day, these works will be exhibited from 19 to 30 June 2000 in the Palais Wilson in Geneva, home of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Any organization financed by the Fund and interested in this event is invited to contact the secretariat of the Fund

14 It is important that the work of the non-governmental organizations providing direct humanitarian assistance to torture victims should be better known and recognized. It was in this spirit that the President of the United States of America, Mr. Bill Clinton, on the occasion of the commemoration of the International Day on 26 June 1999, congratulated "those engaged in efforts to combat torture and to provide support for its many victims" (a copy of President Clinton's letter provided by a non-governmental organization can be found in the annex).

Annex

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DATED 23 JUNE 1999

"Greetings to all those observing the second annual United Nations International Day in Support of Victims and Survivors of Torture

"For many of us, torture is a dark and unimaginable nightmare But for others, it is a painful reality that leaves permanent physical injuries and long-term psychological wounds Whether to extract information or to terrorize an individual or community believed to be a threat to a particular regime, torture is an attack on fundamental human rights and a cruel and unjust punishment that aims to break the mind and spirit of its victims and force them into silence and submission

"The United States is firmly committed to ending torture and to aiding those who have suffered the terrible consequences of this brutal and dehumanizing practice We have been a leader in formulating both the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and the Convention against Torture The United States is also the single largest donor to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, and we have been working hard to ensure that those who flee to our country will not be deported or extradited to a place where they are at significant risk of torture This past October, I was pleased to sign into law the Torture Victims Relief Act, which authorizes continued and expanded U S contributions to treatment centers in the United States and abroad for persons who continue to suffer the mental and physical anguish of having been tortured

"Through the creation of the International Criminal Tribunals on the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, we are also working to bring to justice those responsible for torture Those who engage in the cruelty of torture must know that they cannot commit such atrocities with impunity

"Today, we honor the courage and sacrifice of those who have suffered torture - those who have survived as well as those who, tragically, have not I salute those engaged in efforts to combat torture and to provide support for its many victims Your efforts reaffirm our national commitment to ending these heinous crimes and to upholding our most cherished values

"Best wishes to all for a memorable observance

(Signed) Bill Clinton"